

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/786,510	COWAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tom Y. Lu	2621	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

- (1) Tom Y. Lu. (3) Brett Cowan.
 (2) Leonard Mitchard. (4) _____

Date of Interview: 02 December 2005.

Type: a) ☐ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
 c) ☒ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☒ applicant 2) ☒ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☒ Yes e) ☐ No.

If Yes, brief description: applicant's invention was shown on a computer to illustrate the claimed features.

Claim(s) discussed: 38.

Identification of prior art discussed: Sheehan et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,106,466).

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Upon further review of the Sheehan reference and in light of applicant's discussion, the examiner agreed the rejection of claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) would be withdrawn if the proposed claim amendments were entered. Nonetheless, an update search is required..

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


 Examiner's signature, if required

For Examiner Lu (571-273-7393)**USSN 09/786,514 - Proposed Claim Amendments**

We propose to discuss today (11:00 am) the proposed amendments set forth below in relation to the cited Sheehan reference.

38 (amended). A method of assessing one or more characteristic(s) of an organ or part thereof from multiple images acquired of the organ or part thereof, the method ~~comprising the work flow steps of:~~ including forming a fit between a reference model of the geometric shape of the organ or part thereof and a series of acquired images of the organ or part thereof by a series of user interactive steps which (consist) essentially of:

defining the spatial position of at least two of the acquired images;

forming an initial fit between ~~a~~ the reference model of ~~the geometric shape of the organ or part thereof and the~~ acquired images according to ~~by~~ displaying at least two of the acquired images to a user, manually user defining one or more reference markers on the acquired images, and initially fitting the model to the acquired images by reference to the reference markers on the images;

displaying to a user a user-selected acquired image of the subject organ or part thereof, the image including at least one organ boundary derived from the intersection of a surface of the organ with the plane of the user-selected image;

displaying to the user a representation of the initial fit of the reference model by ~~superimposing~~ displaying on the user-selected acquired image a representation of the intersection of the reference model with the plane of the user-selected image;

manually user-defining one or more reference guide points ~~associated with the~~ on a user-selected organ boundary in ~~on the user-selected~~ image displayed to the user, for which the spatial positions have been defined;

converting the guide points to three-dimensional coordinates;

improving the fit of the model by fitting-forcing the model to adhere to the guide points to form an ~~estimate~~ improved fit of the model for the organ or part; and

displaying to the user a representation of the improved fit of the model by displaying on an acquired image a representation of the intersection of the improved fit of the model with the plane of the user-selected image;

manually user-defining one or more further reference guide points on at least one further user-selected image displayed to the user, for which the spatial positions have been defined;

converting the guide points to three-dimensional coordinates; and
further improving the fit of the model by fitting the model to said further reference guide points, to thereby form a further improved fit of the estimate model for the organ or part which enables assessing the one or more characteristic from the estimate model.

39 (currently amended). A method as claimed in claim 38 ~~including~~ wherein the step of forming the initial fit between the reference model and the images by defining a point on each of two images includes the steps of defining a point associated with the reference marker(s), on each of two images defining a reference line in 3-dimensional space between the points, calculating the distance as a function of the length of the reference line, and at least approximately matching the scale of the reference model and the images according to the distance between the points.